

日本語ニュース

NIHONGO NEWS - JAPANESE NEWS

Japanese Language
and Culture

Clovis Grove
Elementary
September 2012

こんにちは！ Konnichiwa! Hello!

Welcome to the Japanese Language Program at Clovis Grove Elementary!

Konnichiwa! We welcome you and your child to the Japanese Language Program at Clovis Grove Elementary School!

Japanese class will be 40 minutes weekly for kindergarten students. Concepts your child learns in Japanese class will mirror what they learn in their normal school day, such as math and social studies as well as practice their communication and overall social skills.

This class is only the first step in the Menasha Joint School District's World Language and Culture program. Students learn a language and culture important in our globally connected world of today. The Menasha Joint School District's nationally recognized World Language program continues through the sixth grade with ongoing world language programs at the middle and high school level. At the end of the K-12 sequence of studying Japanese, every student will not only be proficient in the Japanese language but will have a keen awareness of and appreciation for the culture of Japan as well as others in our world.

The other Menasha Elementary Schools offer World Languages as well: Students at Gegan and Jefferson Elementary schools study German while students study Spanish at Nicolet and Butte des Morts Elementary Schools. All of the World Languages offered in our school district are part of the academic program for every elementary school child as we work to ensure that they will be prepared to take their place in our global community of today and tomorrow.

We are enclosing with this letter a Japanese vocabulary guide for the first unit of study in Japanese. We hope you will find it useful to work on Japanese with your child at home. We will send newsletters home periodically to inform you about happenings in Japanese class and vocabulary lists for use at home. Ask your children to tell you what they have learned and to be the teacher. It is a great way to get the whole family involved in learning a new language!

Once again, the Japanese World Language Staff in Menasha will communicate with you regularly to inform you of what we have learned and where we are headed. Thank you in advance for your support!

どうも ありがとう ございます
Doomo Arigatoo Gozaimasu!
Thank You Very Much!

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In September.....

Our first unit of study is "Hello Japan!". We will learn how to introduce ourselves, learn a little about the Japanese language and begin learning how, when and why Japanese do the things they do. We will read some great stories, sing some new songs and even learn how to write our names in Japanese. Be sure to ask your kids about it!

How we teach Japanese to Kindergarteners....

We will use many songs and actions to learn our concepts in Japanese throughout the year. Encourage your child to sing them to you and show you the actions. Don't be discouraged if your child cannot translate all the words for you! That is normal and we don't emphasize simultaneous translation (constant translation of each word from Japanese to English). We want your children to be "users" of the Japanese language, not translators. Ask your child to show you how and when they would "use" the language they have learned.

Hello Japan! I am.....

Ohayoo	(oh-hah-yoo)
Konnichiwa	(kohn-nee-chee-wah)
Sayoonara	(sah-yoo-nah-rah)
Jyamatta	(jah-mat-tah)
Matta ne!	(mah-tah-neh)

Good morning
Good day/Hello
Goodbye
See you later
See you!



Onamae wa?	(oh-nah-mah-ey-wah)
Watashi wa _____desu.	(wah-tah-shee-wah_____deh-su)
(Jill)san	((Jill)sahn)
(Smith)san	((Smith)sahn)
(Sessler)Sensei	((sessler))sehn-say

What's your name?
My name is_____.
She is (Jill).
He is Mr. Smith
She is Ms. Sessler. (teacher)

_____o kudasai	(__-oh-kuh-dah-sah-ee)-
arigatoo	(ah-ree-gah-toe)-
doo itashimashite	(doe-ee-tah-she-mah-she-tay)-
sumimasen	(sue-mee-mah-sen)-

please
thank you
you are welcome
excuse me

Culturally Speaking.....

Bowing when you greet someone is as much of a custom in Japan as it is to shake hands with someone in the US. School children always bow to their teachers when they enter the room. Japanese people even bow when speaking on the phone!

Things to look forward to.....

Japanese is not just a part of your child's academic school day at Clovis Grove! It is what we "do" at our school. We have many special events, visitors, etc. that come and help our children learn throughout the year. Exciting events at Clovis include Japan Family night, Japanese club after school (run by our Menasha High School students who study Japanese), special Japanese activities with our 4th and 5th grade big buddies and visitors from our elementary, middle school and high school sister schools in Japan. Look for information to come home on these special activities.

From Japan...

